

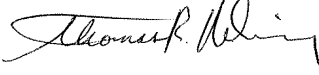


NORTH DAKOTA
DEPARTMENT of HEALTH

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS
AND RESPONSE SECTION
Division of Emergency Medical
Services and Trauma
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DATE: May 17, 2012

FROM: Thomas Nehring, Director 
Division of Emergency Medical Services and Trauma

TO: All ambulance services, squad leaders

RE: Funding Area Application and Guidance cover letter

The funding area grant application and the funding area grant guidance are included with this letter. The need for funding areas was established in the 2011 legislative session as well as other issues relating to emergency medical services (EMS) in North Dakota. The funding area guidance includes a copy of House Bill 1044 (HB 1044) that was passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Dalrymple. The law is now contained in the North Dakota Century Code Chapters 23-27 and 23-46 (N.D.C.C. 23-27 and N.D.C.C. 23-46).

The new law repeals the staffing grant as of June 30, 2012 and replaces that program with a new Rural EMS grant that provides financial assistance for staffing, equipment and other operating costs. The legislature appropriated \$3 million for fiscal year 2012-2013 which will be distributed following the July 1, 2012 implementation of the new law. The new law requires the establishment of funding areas instead of the previous staffing grant. The funding levels for the next biennium may be at \$4,250,000.00 for the two year period or \$2,125,000.00 per year unless changes are made before then.

In addition to the need for funding areas for EMS the HB 1044 also established the need for EMS operations licensure limitation, an Emergency Medical Services Advisory Council (EMSAC) and the establishment of a \$10.00 per capita local match when applying for funding. The funding area concept is not only new to the ambulance services but also to the state of North Dakota and to the Division of Emergency Medical Service and Trauma (DEMST). DEMST was charged with the details of making this new project into reality which has been a huge undertaking. This legislation repealed the staffing grant which has been in existence since 2007 and will no longer be in effect as of July 1, 2012.

As a result of this legislation, the North Dakota Department of Health (ND DoH) through the DEMST along with the EMSAC, have worked tirelessly in establishing the guidance for the new funding areas. The EMSAC has met on a monthly basis spending the bulk of their efforts on funding area guidance. The work on the funding areas by the EMSAC was completed on April 18th, 2012 and since that date DEMST has been working to bring this concept forward with minimal disruption in the day to day fiscal operations of ambulance services.

The deadline for the DEMST to receive funding area applications is June 29, 2012. The grant applications must be in DEMST by 5:00 p.m. or postmarked by 5:00 p.m. of June 29, 2012. This will give funding areas six weeks to complete and submit the application. DEMST will take two weeks to score the applications and awards will be made on July 13th, 2012. Once awarded the grant period will be retroactive to July 1, 2012 and continue until June 30, 2013.

As stated in HB 1044 “Emergency medical services operations that request financial assistance from the state must provide requested fiscal information to the state department of health for use in financial

assistance determinations. All information provided to the department under this section is confidential”. We would like to assure you that the fiscal information supplied to the Department of Health will not be shared with anyone other than the ND DoH.

The intent of the legislation is to provide funding for areas within the state where EMS operations can collaborate with other EMS operations as well as other agencies within their funding area resulting in the sharing of ideas and resources. While currently 99 funding areas exist, it is our hope that funding areas work with other funding areas in close proximity to create a system of care and that the combination of collaboration and experience will result in fewer funding areas in the future.

As stated above this is a new concept in North Dakota and we have great hope that these efforts will spawn new ways of providing EMS in our state. While most funding areas have only one ambulance service there are many other agencies to collaborate with. Funding areas adjacent to each other are highly encouraged to collaborate as well. Please note that this project differs from the staffing grant, where the money could only be used for staffing. This grant may be used for a variety of different uses; however, there is a maximum amount in some categories as listed in the guidance. The budget categories stating the maximum amount are not exclusive and other budget categories can be used to justify the application.

The local match can be determined by multiplying the population within the funding area by \$10.00. The population for your funding area can be found in the table of Attachment II. The match cannot be accomplished using other state funds or volunteer hours. Actual paid expenses, in kind contribution, donations, local and county mill levies and revenues from ambulance runs may be used to help meet the \$10.00 per capita requirement.

The EMS Advisory Council was established by this legislation. The Council is made up of people in the EMS field or associated with the industry. It is the voice of the industry for input to the DoH and it behooves you to know who the representative are in your area so your ideas can have a voice at the state level. We have shared the names of the council representatives along with their contact information in the past and you can find the list of council members on our webpage at www.nd.gov/ems.

Shortly after the release of the application and guidance you will receive notification of a statewide video conference to be held as an informational conference to share ideas and direction for the completion of the application and other relevant information. There will be a short presentation by DEMST followed by a longer period of questions and answers. You will be able to access the video conference in either your local school or your closest hospital. There will be further direction contained in the announcement. This announcement will come to you in the form of an email so make sure the information is distributed to others within your squad and make sure DEMST has your proper email. Everyone is welcome to attend by interactive video and we hope this session will be helpful in your efforts to apply for funding area grants.

We understand this is a new project and you may have a lot of questions. We hope the video conference will be an avenue to get most of your questions answered but we are always available by phone or email for assistance in your efforts and our contact information is on the website. Please read through the application and guidance thoroughly and bring your questions to the video conference.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Working together on a project like this can help shape the future for EMS in North Dakota!